



**Research fellowship on “Sources for an environmental history of Western Asia: the Pilgrimage diaries” - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia**

(Italian law 30 December 2010, n.240, art. 22 and subsequent amendments and additions)

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)) The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

**Description**

The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

- **Titolo:** Sources for an environmental history of Western Asia: the Pilgrimage diaries
- **SSD e/o settore concorsuale:** L-OR/10, L-OR-14;
- **Responsabile scientifico e tutor:** Prof. Simone Cristoforetti
- **Durata:** 12 mesi
- **Abstract:** The project aims to collect and analyze environmental information preserved in the Farsi (Neo-Persian) Pilgrimage (Hajj) diaries composed between the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries. These sources, numbering around a hundred, have only recently become accessible to scholars. The researcher will work on a pre-selected corpus of pilgrimage diaries to identify and organize all information related to the environments traversed by the authors. These diaries are valuable on two levels: historical-anthropological and historical-climatological. On one hand, the corpus is crucial for understanding the relationship with the environment at the dawn of the environmental crisis and the onset of European modernity across a vast area from Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent to the Arabian Peninsula, with particular attention to the historical and cultural value of water. The researcher's study will take the form of a historical anthropology investigation focusing on two main areas: A) the pilgrims' engagement with the landscape and their mindscapes; B) transformations in the human-environment relationship during key historical transitions like the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. On the other hand, in a region lacking natural archives useful for climate history, the diaries become an essential archive of societies, as evidenced by similar studies on travel diaries from other global regions. The research findings will result in:
  - 1) An essay (in the form of an article or book) aimed at providing a historical-anthropological overview of the pilgrims' perspectives on the environment, utilizing the personal, varied, and gendered perspectives these sources offer.
  - 2) A report organizing data relevant for a potential climatological history of the area towards the end of the Little Ice Age (14th-19th centuries), including observations on snow, water sources, crop maturation, and prices. The researcher will collaborate with colleagues from DAIS, and the open-source report could be hosted on the MAP website.
  - 3) Organization of a dedicated event.

The research may be carried out in English.

The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia.

**Who can apply**

Prospective candidates are expected to hold doctoral degree and to have a suitable professional CV for the requested research activities

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers with positive evaluation in all the criteria in individual proposals such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar.



**Settore Ricerca/FM**

Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

**Duration of contract:** 12 months (approximately starting: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024)

**Stipend:** The research fellowship amounts to 19.500,00 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

**Deadline for submission of applications: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12.00 noon**

**How to apply:**

Candidates shall submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file ([link](#)); a declaration must be appended in the footnote of the curriculum, pursuant to the Italian DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, that the information provided corresponds to the truth. Moreover the candidates have to consent to the use of their personal data for the purposes of this selection procedure pursuant to the Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003 and to the EU Regulations 2016/679;
3. The attachments called “obligations and understanding” and “participation and compatibility”;
4. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice - [link](#));
5. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
6. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
7. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
8. Declaration on availability to held the interview in remote ([link](#)) to be send via email at the following address: [ricerca.dsaam@unive.it](mailto:ricerca.dsaam@unive.it)
9. Short list of publications;
10. The three most representative publications of the candidate in format .pdf;
11. Description (max 500 words) of the relevant research activities conducted by the candidate for the grant.

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

**Incomplete applications will be rejected.**

**How to submit your application**

Applications should be submitted by the online procedure, available on the notice webpage ([link](#))

**Or submit here:** <https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/dsaamecccri24>

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Please note that in case of an high number of applications and / or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower, Therefore it is suggested not to start the process close to the



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia  
e sull'Africa Mediterranea

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia  
**Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa Mediterranea**  
Palazzo Vendramin – Dorsoduro 3462, 30123 Venezia  
P.IVA 00816350276 - CF 80007720271  
[www.unive.it/dsaam](http://www.unive.it/dsaam)

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deadline.

**NB:** the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

### **Evaluation**

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.

### **Selection procedure**

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10.00 a.m.

The interview will be held in remote only. Further details on how to connect online will be published alongside the convocation notice.

### **Information and contacts**

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#))

For further information please email [ricerca.dsaam@unive.it](mailto:ricerca.dsaam@unive.it)